

## VII. OPERATIONS REPORT

### A. Management Team members' reports – information item

---

#### Report from State Librarian Stephanie Bailey-White

- The possibility of increased one-time funding for summer learning and out-of-school programming (discussed in more detail under V. Federal Funds) will benefit many public and school libraries and is a great collaboration between the ICfL, STEM Action Center, the Idaho Out of School Network, the State Board of Education and the State Department of Education.
- I am now serving on the Western States Broadband Alliance. These monthly meetings convene state broadband offices, state libraries, state regional optical networks, higher education, and tribal liaisons to share strategies and opportunities. Idaho joins Washington, Oregon, California, Nevada, Utah in these discussions. Dylan, William, and I are also meeting independently with representatives from the Idaho Regional Optical Network (IRON) to discuss how we can partner to improve broadband capacity for Idaho public libraries.
- I am planning on attending the first in-person COSLA (Chief Officers of State Library Agencies) meeting in Portland on March 22 in conjunction with the Public Library Association conference March 23-25, which I am also planning on attending.
- Changes in personnel and onboarding a new management team member, along with new federal funding opportunities, and the receipt of the draft LSTA five-year evaluation, are leading to discussions of ways the agency can continue to improve and foster engagement for staff and the library community.

#### Report from Deputy State Librarian Dylan Baker

- It's been a bit of a wild first month as the new Deputy State Librarian. Our two Public Library Consultants both departed ICfL, requiring myself and Stephanie to step in to answer consulting questions from public library directors and trustees. Despite the short-term staffing challenge, I am excited about the opportunity to adjust our Public Library Consultant position to better serve the Idaho library community by removing the previous region-based aspect of the role. This will align our Public Library Consultant with our other Library Consultants, who all serve the entire state. Our open Public Library Consultant position will close on February 20.
- Amanda Standerfer and her team at Fast Forward Libraries have completed the final draft of our LSTA Five-Year Evaluation we contracted from them. We plan to have Amanda present the final draft at our March Library Development Meeting to receive and incorporate any additional feedback from our staff before she finalizes the report for submittal to IMLS.
- Youth Services Consultant Jennifer Redford led our Library Development staff in putting together a blog post titled [“For Your Reconsideration”](#) with information and resources for any Idaho libraries dealing with the recent rise in organized challenges to library

materials. Emerging Trends Consultant Deana Brown and School Library Consultant Jeannie Standal are facilitating two virtual sessions for library staff seeking a space to discuss these materials challenges with their peers.

- Registration is currently open for our virtual Digital Inclusion Summit, scheduled for 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. MT on March 2 & 3. Over 50 people have already registered for the event. The Digital Inclusion Summit Planning Team, led by Emerging Trends Consultant Deana Brown, have secured 14 presenters to offer lightning round-style presentations throughout as well as two longer keynote speakers for each day. Our keynote speakers are NDIA (National Digital Inclusion Alliance) Executive Director Angela Siefer and Associate Professor Jevin West of the Information School at the University of Washington.

#### **Report from Administrative Services Manager Jamie Smith**

- **BUDGET:** Our FY2022 budgets are in great shape to finish the fiscal year with some flexibility. The state's Change in Employee Compensation (CEC) committee recently agreed on a recommendation for JFAC and were supportive of an increase above what the Governor recommended to address the significant cost of living increases and difficulty in recruiting/hiring.
- **FISCAL:** Luma, the state's Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system for statewide unification in budget planning, financial management, procurement, payroll, and human capital management, is on track for full implementation of the financial management and procurement modules by July 1, 2022. End User Training will begin May 16 through June 24<sup>th</sup> with the fiscal team primarily impacted, but the entire agency will receive some training for the new system.
- Talela Florco will be joining us as the new Grants/Contracts Officer at ICfL! She comes to us with a Bachelor's of Science in Anthropology, a Master's Degree in Museum Studies, and eight years of experience as Curator/Archivist/Contract Manager/business owner. With her excellent attention to detail, her expressed joy in reading through the IMLS manual, and her passion for seeing the numbers behind the business, Talela will be an excellent addition to the team.
- **HR:** Governor Little's HR Modernization project, running concurrently with Luma payroll and human capital management, is underway with full implementation slated for January 2023. With HR Modernization, our HR Specialist will likely support other state agencies in addition to the ICfL but will stay on site here. These changes will impact the ancillary duties he provides the agency.
- **FACILITIES:** Two ADA compliant bathrooms, one in the basement and on the main floor, were installed in January and they look (and work) great!

#### **Report from Talking Book Services (TBS) Program Supervisor LeAnn Gelskey**

- The TBS team has developed a robust ARPA-funded advertising campaign entitled 'Never Stop Reading!' in order to promote Talking Books across the state. A new radio spot was created for Clearwater County. Ads were placed on three digital billboards in the Lewiston area as well as traditional billboards in Grangeville, Idaho Falls, and

Orofino. TV spots are scheduled for the Twin Falls area and, digital kiosks in the Wood River Valley. Print advertising will appear statewide.

- Our third virtual book club program will be held in March and the title chosen by the group is *The Authenticity Project* by Clare Pooley. Megan Egbert will lead the discussion and we are offering a Zoom option for this event.
- Personnel: Sheila Winther accepted the position of Interim Volunteer Coordinator along with Sue Vap as the Interim Studio Support Technician.

#### **Report from E-Services Program Supervisor William Lamb**

- Our IDEA (Idaho Digital E-book Alliance) continues to grow in 2022. Our Temporary IDEA Collection Developer Anna Langrill efficiently and effectively expended all \$307,000 of the one-time state CARES funds that were appropriated for FY2022 and had to be spent by December 31, 2021, on additional quality e-books and audiobooks. As of February 2, 2022, IDEA has 23,702 unique titles, including 19,624 e-books and 4,078 audiobooks. 5,688 unique users have used the IDEA collection with 45,240 total checkouts. Students from 36 Idaho school districts have checked out at least one item from the IDEA collection, with many more in the process of being connected. All the public libraries in Idaho with OverDrive access (including many that joined with support from our IMLS ARPA OverDrive funds opportunity) are sharing access to the IDEA collection and each other's collections using reciprocal lending agreements, except for Boise Public Library and Idaho Falls Public Library.
- E-rate season is in full swing and so far, this year, we have been able to assist multiple libraries with substantially increasing their internet connectivity. Specifically, Garden Valley District Library and Richfield District Library will move from wireless internet connections at less than 15 Mbps to over 700 Mbps (Garden Valley) and 1 Gbps (Richfield) and zero cost to the libraries by utilizing E-rate and EOR (state reimbursement funds).
- We continue to assist libraries with leveraging all available funding opportunities and expect to see more libraries taking advantage of fiber that was built utilizing CARES Act funds and state broadband funding in their communities, including potential increased bandwidth for telehealth appointments.

#### **Report from Partnerships and Program Supervisor Amelia Valasek**

- General Updates & Changes - Since the last Board meeting in December, I have taken the lead on two new projects, which are listed below. I will also continue to serve as the project lead for the ARPA Learn/Earn grants (for which there are no major updates at this time). Additionally, I will be transitioning the Let's Talk About It program to LeAnn (TBS Program Supervisor) this spring at the conclusion of our spring virtual series. I have very much enjoyed the opportunity to work on the LTAI program and am excited for LeAnn to take over this fun and rewarding project!
- Digital Access for All Idahoans (DAAI) State Plan – This is a significant, multi-part project that will be carried out by a team of ICfL staff. I will be leading the first phase of this project, which is the stakeholder assessment. During this phase of the project the DAAI

team will identify, contact, and interview a wide range of organizations across Idaho. The purpose is to ascertain the digital needs of these organizations as well as the needs of their customers/constituents. This information will inform the next steps of the project. This phase of the project will take place during the spring of 2022.

- Telehealth Initiative – I will be taking the lead for the ICfL’s telehealth initiative. In the short term, we will be launching the Telehealth Trailblazer’s grant this month in partnership with the Blude Cross Foundation for Health. We will also be preparing to roll-out additional telehealth projects and subgrants, including a potential partnership with the Dept of Health and Welfare to get telehealth pods in libraries, and capital improvement grants to local libraries (pending JFAC budget approval).